

**§ 68.5 Who is ineligible to participate?**

The following individuals are ineligible for NIH LRP participation:

(a) Persons who do not meet the eligibility requirements as specified under § 68.3 of this part;

(b) Any individual who has or had a Federal judgment lien against his/her property arising from Federal debt;

(c) Persons who owe an obligation of health professional service to the Federal Government, a state, or other entity, unless deferrals or extensions are granted for the length of the service of their LRP contract. The following are examples of programs that have a service obligation:

(1) Armed Forces (Army, Navy, or Air Force) Professions Scholarship Program,

(2) Exceptional Financial Need (EFN) Scholarship Program,

(3) Financial Assistance for Disadvantaged Health Professions Students (FADHPS),

(4) Indian Health Service (IHS) Scholarship Program,

(5) National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Scholarship Program,

(6) National Research Service Award (NRSA) Program, and/or Loan Repayment Programs, NURSE Corps Scholarship and Loan Repayment Programs,

(7) NIH Undergraduate Scholarship Program (UGSP),

(8) Physicians Shortage Area Scholarship Program,

(9) Primary Care Loan (PCL) Program, and

(10) Public Health Service Scholarship (PHS) Program;

(d) For extramural LRPs only: Individuals who receive any research funding support or salary from a for-profit institution or organization, or Federal Government employees working more than 20 hours per week;

(e) Current recipients of NIH intramural training awards, e.g., NIH Intramural Research Training Awards (IRTA) or Cancer Research Training Awards (CRTA);

(f) Individuals conducting research for which funding is precluded by Federal law, regulation, or HHS/NIH policy or that does not comply with applicable Federal, state, and local law regarding the conduct of the research

(e.g., applicable human subject protection regulations);

(g) Individuals with only ineligible loans or loans that are not educational; and

(h) Individuals who do not have sufficient qualifying educational debt to meet the debt threshold.

**§ 68.6 How do individuals apply to participate in the NIH LRPs?**

An application for participation in an NIH LRP shall be submitted to the NIH, which is responsible for the Program's administration, in such form and manner as the Secretary prescribes.

**§ 68.7 How are applicants selected to participate in the NIH LRPs?**

The NIH LRP awards are competitive. To be selected for participation in an NIH LRP, applicants must satisfy the following requirements:

(a) Applicants must meet the eligibility requirements specified in §§ 68.3 and 68.4 of this part.

(b) Applicants must not be ineligible for participation as specified in § 68.5 of this part.

(c) Upon receipt, applications for any of the NIH LRPs will be reviewed for eligibility and completeness by the NIH Division of Loan Repayment. Incomplete or ineligible applications will not be processed or reviewed further.

(d)(1) Applications for the Intramural LRPs that are deemed eligible and complete are submitted to the Loan Repayment Committee (LRC), which reviews, ranks, and approves/disapproves LRP awards. The LRC is composed of senior intramural scientists, including basic (bench) and clinical researchers and science policy administrators. Since LRP participation in the Intramural programs is contingent upon NIH employment, applicants must be recommended by the employing IC of the NIH to be considered by the LRC.

(2) Applications for the Extramural LRPs that are deemed eligible and complete will be referred by the NIH Center for Scientific Review (CSR) to an appropriate NIH IC for peer review.

In evaluating the application, reviewers are directed to consider the following components and how they relate to the likelihood that the applicant will continue in a research career:

(i) Applicant's potential to pursue a career in research as defined by the appropriate LRP:

(A) Appropriateness of the applicant's previous training and experience to prepare for a research career.

(B) Appropriateness of the proposed research activities during the LRP contract to foster a career in research.

(C) Commitment to a research career, as reflected by the personal statement of long-term career goals and plan to achieve those goals.

(D) Strength of the letters of recommendations attesting to the applicant's potential for a successful career in research.

(ii) Quality of the overall environment to prepare the applicant for a research career:

(A) Quality and availability of appropriate scientific mentors and colleagues to help achieve or enhance the applicant's research independence, including the mentors' record in mentoring researchers, funding history, and research productivity.

(B) Quality and appropriateness of institutional resources and facilities.

(iii) For the Health Disparities Research LRP, at least 50 percent of the contracts are required by statute to be for appropriately qualified health professionals who are members of a health disparity population.

#### **§ 68.8 What do the NIH LRPs provide to participants?**

(a) Loan repayments: For each year of the applicable service period the individual agrees to serve, the NIH may pay up to \$35,000 per year of a participant's repayable debt.

(b) Payments are made directly to a participant's lender(s). If there is more than one outstanding qualified educational loan, the NIH will repay the loans in the following order, unless the NIH determines significant savings would result from paying loans in a different order of priority:

(1) Loans guaranteed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services;

(2) Loans guaranteed by the U.S. Department of Education;

(3) Loans made or guaranteed by a state;

(4) Loans made by a school; and

(5) Loans made by other entities.

(c) Tax liability payments: In addition to the loan repayments, the NIH shall make tax payments in an amount equal to 39 percent of the total annual loan repayment to the Internal Revenue Service on the participant's behalf. The NIH may make additional payments to those participants who show increased Federal, State, and/or local taxes as a result of loan repayments.

(d) Under paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of this section, the NIH will make loan and tax liability payments to the extent appropriated funds are available for these purposes.

#### **§ 68.9 What loans qualify for repayment?**

The NIH LRPs will repay participants' lenders the principal, interest, and related expenses of qualified U.S. Government and commercial educational loans obtained by participants for the following:

(a) Undergraduate, graduate, and health professional school tuition expenses;

(b) Other reasonable educational expenses required by the school(s) attended, including fees, books, supplies, educational equipment and materials, and laboratory expenses; and

(c) Reasonable living expenses, including the cost of room and board, transportation and commuting costs, and other living expenses, as determined by the NIH.

#### **§ 68.10 What loans are ineligible for repayment?**

The following loans are ineligible for repayment under the NIH LRPs:

(a) Loans not obtained from a bank, credit union, savings and loan association, not-for-profit organization, insurance company, school, and other financial or credit institution that is subject to examination and supervision in its capacity as a lending institution by an agency of the United States or of the state in which the lender has its principal place of business;